

ENGLISH EMIGRANTS
IN
CANADA:

A PEEP AT THEIR NEW HOMES.

BY
SEPTIMUS SCRIVENER.

PRICE THREEPENCE.

LONDON: JAMES CLARKE & CO., 13 & 14, FLEET STREET, E.C.

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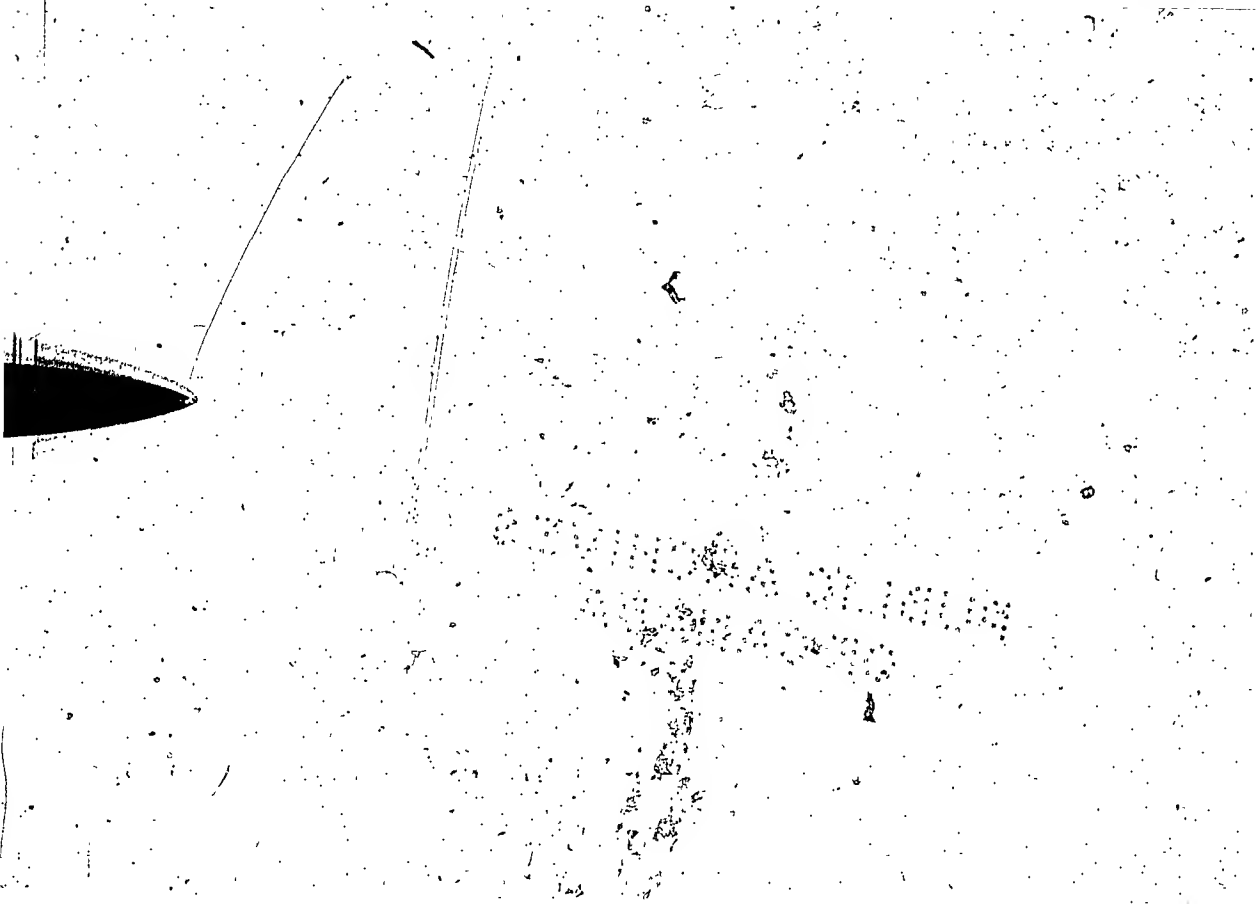
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Four hundred and fifty emigrants to Canada this season. Such is the record of the Self-Help Emigration Society, one of the numerous offshoots of the philanthropic agencies originated by the Rev. Andrew Mearns, of the London Congregational Union. This young society, of which the Rev. Robert Mackay, an experienced Canadian, is the active secretary, has done splendid service in finding new homes and steady work at good wages for a large number of willing workers who had become well-nigh sick at heart because of their inability to procure regular employment in the mother country. "What a good thing it would be to pay a visit to some of these emigrants, to inquire concerning their affairs and see how they do." This idea assumed more tangible form as the holiday season approached. "Why not take a holiday trip to Canada?"

I remembered a sort of half promise given to a party of emigrants a few weeks pre-

viously, that, *perhaps* I might look in upon them and have a cup of tea some day. The cheery, responsive welcome of the emigrants was fresh in my recollection. Canada was forthwith decided upon, and I had no difficulty in finding a travelling companion from my own family circle. So it was that at midnight on the 4th of August we steamed out of St. Pancras Station—or, to be very exact, the locomotive did the steaming, while we were wrapped in the arms of Somnus within the four walls of a Pullman sleeper.

The even tenor of our way was varied with more "bumps" than usual, but we at length reached Liverpool, although considerably behind time.

"How is it we are so late?" we inquired of the attendant.

"Well, you see, sir, there's a strike amongst the drivers and stokers, and we're running all fresh men. It's very awkward when a driver doesn't know

the road, especially in the dark. We pulled up at several out-of-the-way places and had some awkward turns; but, thank God, we've reached here all right. I was afraid we shouldn't, though."

"If ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise." While we had been sleeping the sleep of the just, the car attendant had been the subject of anxiety as to whether we should reach Liverpool in peace or in pieces.

Shortly before eight o'clock we found ourselves on board the *Ss. Lake Winnipeg*, and were delighted to renew acquaintance with the ever courteous officials of the "Beaver Line." Mr. Roberts the general manager, and Mr. D. Wilson, who added greatly to our enjoyment on a former visit, had anticipated our wants by providing a most welcome *déjeuner à la fourchette*. Our cabins too were all we could desire. The numerous little things which go to make up comfort had been provided most liberally, proving to us that so far as thoughtful consideration could add to our enjoyment, we were lacking nothing. After making the acquaintance of the captain, one of the genial, jolly, good-tempered, happy-go-lucky sort, of whose attention during the passage out we cannot speak too highly, we asked, and readily obtained, permission to inspect the emigrants' quarters. The extreme cleanliness of this part of the ship, and the general arrangements for the

comfort of the emigrants, were particularly striking. The quarters for married couples and families, for single men and for single women, were so arranged that it seemed scarcely possible for abuses to occur. The testimony subsequently received from the emigrants themselves left no doubt as to the excellence of the arrangements.

When the time was reached for leaving Liverpool, we were all in a bit of a fever lest we should be delayed a tide, owing to the doctor not having put in an appearance. Nothing daunted, however, Mr. Wilson started off in search of a substitute, while the steamer slowly made her way down the Mersey. The search was successful, to the no small delight of captain and passengers. Ten minutes' notice sufficed for the doctor to get "ready for any part of the world," and by noon he was on board, by the help of a tender specially engaged for adding him to the Westward-bound party. We left the pier-head under delightful auspices,—glorious weather, the water as smooth as a mill-pond, fellow-passengers evidently bent on contributing to the general enjoyment, young children as frisky as kittens, and a real live kitten as impudent as a monkey.

The next day we touched at Queenstown, for the reception of an additional hundred passengers. For about half-an-hour we had a lively time. The most confirmed hypochondriac must have yielded to the delightful excitement of the surroundings. About twenty itinerant

vendors of oranges, lemons, cakes, Irish lace, bog walking-sticks, travelling caps, newspapers, &c., seemed to rise like spirits from the vasty deep. Irish girls and women boarded the ship with the agility of monkeys, climbing up the sides with the aid of a boat-hook, and commenced operations as soon as their feet touched the deck. A good trade was done in a very short time, the business transactions being enlivened by a merry chatter, set to the music of inimitable Irish brogue. The older women were not behind their younger sisters in the humour with which they enlivened their sales, or tried to stimulate on-lookers into becoming purchasers. The lively vendors left the ship with considerably lighter loads than when they boarded her.

The next day (Sunday) was spent by several of the passengers in quiet meditation on the instability of things in general. For special reasons, more physical than spiritual, some of us made it a day of retirement. Such seasons are said to be very helpful to those who are rightly exercised thereby.

I must omit sundry mental jottings which were of interest on our outward passage; the gambols of porpoise, the evening play of whales, the endearments of seals, the northern lights, floating cathedrals with tapering spires formed by the icebergs, and many other wonders of the deep. One splendid iceberg, standing from 150 to 200 feet out of

the water, presented a charming picture in the morning sunlight. The depth of ice below the surface of the water was estimated by the captain to be from 600 to 800 feet.

All went well until we neared the Straits of Belleisle, where we were brought to a standstill for about sixteen hours. The dense fog that prevailed made it dangerous to proceed. At length, however, it cleared, and we went ahead with fresh spirit. On Monday we passed Anticosti, an island with which speculators have been somewhat busy lately, but whose statements were characterized by our captain as "pure moonshine." The next day we were fairly on the River St. Lawrence, and within a thousand miles of Montreal. Our course onward to Quebec, which we reached in the early morning of the 17th, was one of indescribable delight. Beauties unfolded themselves in such rapid succession as to be positively bewildering. At Quebec we landed fifty or sixty emigrants, and at 8 o'clock a.m. we were again under weigh. The progress from Quebec to Montreal (160 miles) was necessarily slow, owing to strong currents and the shallowness of the river after passing Trois Rivières.

I had good opportunities during the last day or two of conversing with the emigrants as to their experiences during the voyage, and made special inquiries as to the commissariat. Nothing could be better. Every one I spoke to testified to an abundance of excellent food and in good variety. The

chief steward was evidently very much gratified at receiving a round-robin of thanks on the last day of the passage. The testimonial was signed by nearly all the emigrants, over 200 in number. I ventured to ask for the steerage bill of fare for the preceding week, for the purpose of comparing it with the information received from the emigrants themselves. Here is a copy of it, and when I say there was absolutely no stint as to quantity one can understand the thanksgiving testimonial. In addition to the regular meals, biscuits were supplied to all comers about 11.0 a.m., and beef-tea and arrowroot served out to sick passengers. The latter were also supplied with gruel at 8.0 p.m.

Ss. "Lake Winnipeg." Steerage Bill of Fare for week ending Saturday, August 13, 1887.

Sun., Aug. 7.	Breakfast.	Porridge, fish, bread and butter, coffee.
	Dinner.	Vegetable soup, boiled fresh beef, potatoes, plum-pudding.
Mon., Aug. 8.	Tea.	Fresh bread and butter, tea.
	Breakfast.	Irish stew, fresh bread and butter, coffee.
	Dinner.	Pea soup, ling fish and butter sauce, potatoes, rice pudding.
Tue., Aug. 9.	Tea.	Fresh bread, marmalade, tea.
	Breakfast.	Porridge, fresh bread and butter, coffee.
	Dinner.	Rice soup, fresh beef, potatoes.
	Tea.	Fresh bread and butter, tea.

Wed., Aug. 10.	Breakfast.	Porridge, fresh bread and butter, coffee.
	Dinner.	Pea soup, salt pork and potatoes, rice pudding.
Th., Aug. 11.	Tea.	Fresh bread and butter, tea.
	Breakfast.	Porridge, fresh bread and butter, coffee.
	Dinner.	Vegetable soup, salt beef, potatoes, plum pudding.
Fri., Aug. 12.	Tea.	Fresh bread, marmalade, tea.
	Breakfast.	Irish stew, fresh bread and butter, coffee.
	Dinner.	Pea soup, salt fish, potatoes, rice pudding.
Sat., Aug. 13.	Tea.	Fresh bread, marmalade, tea.
	Breakfast.	Porridge, fresh bread and butter, coffee.
	Dinner.	Pea soup, salt beef, potatoes.
	Tea.	Fresh bread and butter, tea.

In addition to this ordinary entering, I had some undertone intimations of "screws" of ten being now and again distributed to those members of the fair sex who delighted in having a quiet brewing—extra strong—on their own account.

On Thursday, at noon, thirteen days after leaving Liverpool, we landed at Montreal, sorry to part with our genial captain, obliging officers, and delightful *compagnons de voyage*, but full of pleasant anticipations as to our Westward journeying. The Customs examination was quickly disposed of, very much after the style of reviewers, who cut the leaves and smell the knife. One look at

my face, which wore its usual expression of primitive innocence, was quite sufficient for the Customs' officer. He at once concluded that nothing contraband could be within my packages, and so none were examined, except from the outside.

The inner and outer man having been refreshed, we made our way to the Young Men's Christian Association, to glean information from Mr. Budge, the indefatigable secretary, as to the emigrants consigned to his kindly supervision. The first special inquiry elicited the information that the subjects of it were living within a stone's throw of the building. The case had been an exceptional one. A young married couple, a few days after arriving in London, found themselves unexpectedly on the brink of destitution. The husband's trade was almost at a standstill, and in a short time they must have started on a downward course. In London, without money and without friends, what could they do? They had been in Australia and had saved money, but soon after reaching London the savings (about £40) were stolen. The case was brought before the Committee of the Self-Help Emigration Society, and it was decided to advance all that was requisite. The timely help proved social salvation. The next day husband and wife started for Canada, commended to the care of Mr. Budge. How have they fared? A few minutes brought us to the door of the new

home, but the objects of our search were out. Turning away in quest of other subjects, I was hailed by my good guide, and looking round I saw a face beaming with smiles, the owner of which had recognised me from a neighbouring house and had started off at "quick march" pace to give me a greeting. How anxious that face looked only two months before! What a transformation now!

"Oh, sir, I am so glad to see you. I ran off just as I was, because I was afraid you would be gone."

"Well, and I am very glad to see you looking so bright. It looks as if things were prospering with you."

"Yes, we have great cause for thankfulness. My husband obtained work the very day we landed. He will be so disappointed if he doesn't see you."

Having ascertained at what time the chief bread-winner would be home, we arranged to make a call later in the day. The husband was waiting for us at the head of the street, and conducted us to his new quarters. We were shown into a well-furnished room about 16 feet square, abounding in nicknacks as well as substantial furniture. For this capital accommodation and use of kitchen our friends were paying six dollars (24s.) a month. What a happy contrast to some of the miserably furnished rooms I had seen in London for which the occupants were paying five or six shillings a week. When we were

comfortably seated, I began a little interviewing.

"I want you to tell me about your experience in Canada. I understand you had a good passage out, but I want to get information about work and wages."

"Well, directly we landed I went to Mr. Budge with the letter I had from Mr. Mackay, and he very kindly helped me, both as to work and to lodgings. I got employment at my own trade (bootmaking) in the afternoon, and worked three days, for which I received five dollars (20s.) The next week I worked four days, and earned six dollars and seventy cents (27s.) The next week I had five days' work, and earned nine dollars and ninety-five cents (39s. 9d.) So I have gone on, and I have every reason to believe that I shall continue to have steady work; but if I went further West I have no doubt I could get three dollars (12s.) a day easily."

"You have told me about your earnings; now what about expenditure?"

"Well, you know what we are paying for our lodgings, and we are very comfortable here; but if you want information about provisions, the wife will be able to tell you better than I can."

Just then the wife returned from marketing, bringing with her a loin of lamb, for which she had paid ten cents (5d.) a pound. I thought of some of the struggling wives in many poor homes in Southwark, and tried to picture them buying lamb at 5d. a pound.

"Now, Mrs. —, I want you to enlighten me about housekeeping expenses. What do you pay for bread?"

"Seven cents (3½d.) for a three-pound loaf, but the bread is better here than in England. Butter is twenty-four cents (11½d.) a pound. That is not the best, but it is very good butter."

"Then what is the cost of vegetables?"

"Half a peck of potatoes costs just now eight cents (4d.), a good large cabbage costs five cents (2½d.), and other vegetables in proportion."

"Do you find much difference in the cost of clothing?"

"Not so much as compared with Australia, but men's clothes are decidedly dear in comparison with what we could have bought in England. I think they are nearly half as much again in price."

So we went on, picking up information about other emigrants who left London at the same time as our informants, and getting an insight into Canadian life in general, so far as Montreal was concerned. Pick-and-shovel men we found were earning a dollar and a quarter a day (5s.), and those who were working on the railway received three dollars for the Sunday, when required to work on that day.

In the course of conversation I ascertained that the good wife was also a bread-winner, earning sometimes as much as a dollar (4s.) a day by her own labour. The husband, too,

was contemplating starting a repairing business on his own account, by which an extra ten or twelve shillings a week might be added to the general income. We left our grateful friends in the full conviction that, with God's blessing, they were on the high road to social prosperity.

The next day was occupied in gaining information respecting the industries of Montreal and the principal occupation of its 200,000 inhabitants. Again and again was it impressed upon me by those of whom I inquired, "if men are willing to work there is no difficulty in finding employment in Montreal." In the afternoon, as we were driving to the Canadian Pacific Station, I noticed several posters on which the words "500 hands wanted at good wages" were specially conspicuous. We left Montreal for Ottawa, 120 miles further West, with a very lively sense of several newly-formed friendships. To Mr. H. E. Murray, of the Canada Shipping Company, we were very greatly indebted for much courteous attention, valuable information, and generous help.

Ottawa City, the capital of the Dominion of Canada has, according to its last municipal census, a population of 36,000. This does not include the suburbs. Thirty-one years ago Ottawa, as a city or town, did not exist. In 1854 the population was 10,000; in 1861, 15,000; in 1871, 21,545; in 1880, 25,000; and now it is 36,000. The new Government buildings indicate the growing importance

of the city. They contain two Legislative Halls of the same size as those provided in the English Houses of Parliament, and are very handsomely decorated. The cost of the buildings has exceeded a million sterling. The "lumber" or timber trade is the staple industry. So far as I could gather, some six or seven thousand hands are employed at the several mills.

As a considerable number of men had been sent to Ottawa by the Self-help Emigration Society, I took an early opportunity, after arriving, of calling upon Mr. Wills, the Immigration agent of the Dominion Government, to inquire concerning those committed to his care. Mr. Wills most willingly and generously placed himself at my service, and spent the greater part of the day in search of the information I required.

Soon after I entered the office, a young fellow called inquiring for work. I recognised him as one who was sent out about four months ago. In England he was getting five shillings a week, without board, and lived with his parents at home. On his arrival in Ottawa work was found for him at ten dollars (40s.) a month, with board and lodging, but after working ten weeks he threw up the situation because he wanted something better. Although he was absolutely penniless when I saw him, he was as particular about what work he undertook as if he were master of the situation. Mr. Wills

offered to send him to work on the following Monday, but the young man was so particular that the offer was withdrawn.

In order to economise time, we secured a "buggy," and drove to several mills, in which thousands of hands were employed. As we drove along, noting the numerous substantially-built residences, Mr. Wills said, "There is one thing I want to impress upon you, and that is that all these buildings have been erected by immigrants—men who have come to this country determined to work. Every house you see is a freehold; every occupier is his own landlord."

We passed a magnificent mansion, surrounded by rich foliage and beautifully-kept gardens. The house alone cost over £20,000. The owner and occupier commenced his career of prosperity with "a black satchel and a wife."

"You see that house," said Mr. Wills, pointing to another magnificent dwelling. "That was given to his daughter on her marriage. Her father made it a condition that she should marry a mechanic—some one with a trade."

As we drove past numerous large dwellings, and some of a less pretentious character, I said, "I am delighted to see all these indications of prosperity; but what about the other side of the picture. Where is your poorhouse?"

"We haven't such a thing in Canada, Sir. We have institutions of a private character

for the sick and the aged, for widows and orphans, but we have no poor-house. Our law is WORK or WANT, but no man need want if he is willing to work."

"You stated that all the houses we passed were freehold. What is the value of land in the neighbourhood?"

"Good land may be bought to-day within five miles of the city at a hundred dollars (£20) an acre. Further out it is still lower in price."

"I find a good many people have a dread of the cold of Canada. Are your winters really severe?"

"The cold in this part of Canada is much more endurable than in England. You never see a man shiver here. Let him take care to have his boots big enough for his feet to move about in, and wear woollen clothing, and he will not complain about the cold."

"What class of immigrants are you most in want of?"

"If you will send me good servant girls and agricultural labourers I will undertake to give a good account of them. Servant girls will get better wages, better treatment, and better chances of getting good husbands, than in England. There is a splendid field here for agricultural labourers."

"What is the cost of living here?"

"A man may live here much cheaper than in England. Clothing is no dearer, if the

products of the country are used—good genuine stuff, not shoddy.”

“What is the cost of food?”

“Bread is slightly cheaper than in England. Meat is much cheaper. In winter, when the farmers bring in their produce from the country, a half or a quarter of a sheep may be bought at five cents (2½d.) a pound. Legs of mutton are six cents (2d.) a pound.”

“What would a sheep’s head cost?”

“A sheep’s head! Why, if a poor woman went to a butcher’s for a sheep’s head, he would most likely let her have it for nothing. A hallock’s head, including the tongue, costs only twenty-five cents (1s.).”

So we went on talking until we reached some large lumber-mills, about three miles from the city. I wanted to see some of the men who had had experience of the peat bogs of Lincolnshire, who had previously experienced the bitterness of “no work” in London; but who, rather than eat the bread of charity, had gladly undertaken work at a shilling a day. The training in Lincolnshire had proved a splendid preparation for rough work in Canada, and there was the fullest confidence that the men selected for emigration would turn out well. We had no difficulty in finding the first man I inquired for. He had received no previous intimation of a visitor from the old country calling to see him, but a look-out from an upper floor of the boarding-house connected with the

mills had revealed to him a familiar and a friendly face, and I was very quickly greeted with a smile of welcome and a hearty grip of the hand which made my heart thrill with delight.

“I am real glad to see you, sir,” was uttered with such warmth as to assure me of the genuineness of the words.

“When did you arrive here?”

“On June 4, and I went straight to Mr. Wills, who found work for me directly.”

“What wages are you getting here?”

“Seven dollars (28s.) a week, and I pay two dollars and a-half (10s.) for my board and lodging.”

“Then you are saving money?”

“Not much yet. I want to get a good stock of clothing before the winter sets in, but after that I shall have no difficulty in saving money.”

“That is a capital sort of shirt you are wearing; how much did it cost you?”

“Seventy-five cents (3s.). It’s all wool, and woven like a stocking; a capital thing for this kind of work.”

As we turned away, Mr. Wills said, “That man is bound to do well. He has throughout acted like a gentleman, appreciating any help I have been able to render him, and has stuck well to work. I think it will be a good thing for him to have a turn in the bush. He will get good wages, and after a season in the bush he will be a thorough Canadian,

and if he goes on as well as he has done hitherto his fortune is secured."

Inquiries about other men led to equally satisfactory information; but as a set-off Mr. Wills told me of one man who had abused him most disgracefully, day after day coming to his house in a state of intoxication, and demanding money to which he had no more right than the Governor-General of Timbuctoo.

Off we started on a drive of ten or eleven miles in another direction, calling on our way at other extensive mills situated close to the Chaudiere Falls, which are generally considered to rank next in importance, grandeur, and beauty to Niagara. The greater fall is about 200 feet in width and 40 feet in depth. The boiling, seething, foaming character of the water as it poured over the fall certainly had very much the appearance of a huge cauldron.

Inside the mills we saw the logs of timber received from the water, and in a few minutes they were turned out in planks, joists, rafters, or laths ready for building purposes. Hundreds of men were attending to the several departments of labour, with the systematic regularity of clockwork.

Close at hand we saw Eddy's Match Factory, and other important industries. Everywhere around the signs of prosperity presented themselves. Not a single loafer was to be seen. The busy hive was for workers, and drones were not recognised.

Seven miles from Ottawa, I had another warm greeting from a man and his wife and the baby, all of whom had benefited very greatly by their transatlantic change. What a transformation in that blessed baby! Three months ago a pale, sickly, wizened, ever-crying mite, now a chubby faced, smiling, robust child who would not fear to engage in a wrestling match with any piccanniny of the same age.

"Well, H—, are you sorry you came to Canada?"

"Sorry! No, sir. I am very glad. I wouldn't go back for anything."

"What wages were you earning before you came out?"

"For about seven months in the year I was getting twelve shillings a week, and the rest of the year it was pretty hard work to get along."

"What wages are you getting now?"

"Twenty-eight dollars (\$25 12s.) a month; and it's constant, regular work."

With a promise to make inquiries about some relatives in England, we left our friends to their good fortune, and made our way to "The Russell House," which, in due course, we reached after a delightful drive of about twenty-five miles, during which we received much valuable information on social problems which had hitherto seemed extremely difficult.

Mr. Wills very kindly tabulated particulars respecting some forty or fifty cases sent

out by the Self-Help Society. On looking over the list I found every man had been provided with work. In some cases a delay of a few days had occurred, but the Society had authorised an expenditure in such cases for board and lodging, or for migration to more suitable fields of labour. The average outlay, as shown on the list prepared, had not exceeded ten shillings per head. The following epitome will show the results in a few cases:—

H. P. arrived April 1. Work provided at 1 dol. 50 cents (6s.) a day. Paid 3 dols. (12s.) a week for board and lodging.

A. H. arrived May 4. Now earning 28 dols. (£5 12s.) a month. Permanent employment.

F. H. arrived May 4. Work provided at 1 dol. 50 cents (6s.) a day. Cost for board and lodging 3 dols. (12s.) a week.

M. F., engine-fitter, arrived June 3; work provided immediately at 1 dol. 75 cents (7s.) a day. Boarded and lodged at house opposite works for 3 dols. 25 cents (13s.) a week. Board in every case means three meat meals a day.

J. V. arrived drunk June 3, but set to work next day at 1 dol. 25 cents (5s.) a day.

J. C. and J. C. arrived June 3, both provided with employment at 7 dols. (28s.) a week. Now engaged to work on a railway in Eastern Canada for the winter.

G. C. arrived June 3; engaged at 100 dols. (£20) a year, with board and lodging.

J. W. arrived June 23; at work on the Canadian Pacific Railway at 30 dols. (£6) a month. Permanent employment.

These are simply specimen cases. Some of the men have moved off to other parts of Canada, in the expectation of still further bettering their condition. Some few have

not turned out satisfactorily. In nearly every case of failure *drunk* has been the cause.

The next day I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Lowe, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture for the Dominion of Canada, who very readily supplied additional information, and promised any help in his power in connection with the emigration of willing workers from England. One remark of Mr. Lowe's is specially worth recording. "The genius of our country is *adaptation*, the adaptation of tools to work, the adaptation of men to circumstances." The men wanted in Canada are "all round" men. Men who only know one branch of a trade are at a discount in comparison with the man of many resources and general adaptiveness. The visit to Ottawa proved a decided "eye-opener," and we left it with pleasurable regret for Toronto, about 300 miles further West. During our brief stay in Ottawa we had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of the Rev. John Wood, who had proved himself a good friend to immigrants, and who most cordially promised to render any assistance within his power to any who might be sent to Ottawa by the "Self-Help" Society.

We reached Toronto at 8.30 a.m., after a ride of 9½ hours. Upon the whole the sleeping saloons in Canada are certainly not superior to those in use on the best lines in England. There is less privacy. This, perhaps, is accounted for by the freer life of the

people. Our "sable" night attendant was courteous, but independent. In the early morning we were delighted with touches of sweet harmony from his favourite instrument. At 7 o'clock a table was spread and breakfast supplied to those who required it. Another attendant passed through the ear at intervals with a supply of fresh fruit, and another with general literature and the morning papers.

In Toronto I found more difficulty in tracing individual immigrants than in the places we had previously visited. Mr. Donaldson, the Government Immigration Agent, was unfortunately out of town. Inquiries afforded full evidence that he is a real friend to immigrants, and spares no pains to forward their best interests. I was directed to the Rev. Mr. Darling, a minister of the Episcopal Church, as one who had specially interested himself in immigrants, but I found his house closed, as if the family were in the country or at some quiet resting-place on the St. Lawrence. I set to work to make some general inquiries as to the class of men most likely to succeed in Toronto, and the testimony was everywhere the same: "Send us sober, steady, honest, hard-working men, artisans or labourers, and we will find work for them." Of the men sent out by the Self-Help Emigration Society not a single one had been unprovided with work.

A few facts will indicate the importance

of Toronto as a labour centre. Eight lines of railway have terminal stations in the city. There are at present about 20,000 public and private buildings. The population is 120,000. In 1851, it was 40,000; in 1861, 44,800; in 1871, 50,600; in 1881, 86,445. The yearly civic income and expenditure is over 2,000,000 dols. (£400,000 sterling) on an average. The assessed value of property this year is 82,000,000 dols. (£16,400,000 sterling). There are over a hundred churches in Toronto: 27 Episcopal, 22 Methodist, 16 Presbyterian, 12 Baptist, 9 Roman Catholic, 6 Congregational, 6 Salvation Army, and 12 of various other bodies. Before leaving England a friend had given me the name of a gentleman residing in Yonge-street, as one who would be willing to supply me with information. The number of the house had not been given me. On making inquiry for Yonge-street I found it was more than *thirty miles in length*, extending north and south. King-street, the principal one in Toronto, *sixty-six feet in width*, runs east and west. Forty years ago King-street was composed entirely of wooden structures; now it is well built up with substantial brick and stone buildings. However, I found the required address in Yonge-street, and from there started off in search of a family who had recently arrived in Toronto. On the way, I endeavoured to get some gleanings. A mother, leaving a baker's shop with three little children beside

her, seemed a likely subject. The way to a mother's heart is to take notice of her children.

"Well, little maid, where did you get those pretty black eyes from?"

The little one looked up at her mother as if she knew all about the matter. As two of the children were carrying loaves of bread, I ventured to ask the price.

"These two loaves cost 11 cents." (5d.)

"What is the weight of the two?"

"Four pounds."

"Have you been long in Canada?"

"About two years."

"And do you prefer it to the old country?"

"Oh, yes; although it has been rather a trying time during the last ten weeks, owing to a strike among the joiners. That is my husband's trade."

"What is the result of the strike?"

"It came to an end yesterday. The men are to receive twenty-five cents (1s.) an hour."

"That is better pay than in England?"

"Yes, and living is cheaper; so that altogether we are better off."

With a good-bye to the little ones, and something to buy "sweeties," we proceeded on our way, and at length found the house—closed. Inquiries of neighbours elicited the information that those of whom we were in search lived "in one of four newly-built red brick houses about a mile further on." Then

followed further inquiries, and eventually we succeeded in our quest. The good wife of the house came to us with an inquiring look on her face.

"Do you know Mr. D——?" I asked.

The mention of the name of an old friend in the mother country was quite sufficient. At once we had a hearty welcome.

Husband, wife, and two children arrived in Toronto on the first of June. The husband, a brass founder, a man of superior intelligence, and an earnest Christian worker, found work at once at two dollars (8s.) a day. The son and daughter are both earning money, the former is preparing for taking a small farm. The house occupied by the family consists of six or seven good-sized rooms, bath-room, with numerous modern appliances, and the rent is only nine dollars (36s.) a month, including all taxes. The good man was not at home when we called, but he afforded me the pleasure of seeing him by calling at my hotel in the evening.

"Will you tell me, Mr. S., what is your opinion about Canada, after three months' experience of it?"

"That it is just the country for steady, persevering men to come to. We meet here more on an equal footing. The foreman of the works where I am engaged mixes with the men and converses as freely with them, and we with him, as if there were no distinction in position. He is a

Christian man, and has told me that if I can recommend any steady young fellows from the old country, there will be no difficulty in finding work for them."

"Are you able to save money?"

"Oh, yes; and there is every inducement to save. The Post Office Savings Bank allows $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. interest. Nothing less than a dollar is received on deposit. I hope soon to be able to buy a piece of land."

"Do you find living cheap or dear, in comparison with England?"

"Decidedly cheaper than in England. We buy good beef at eight cents (4d.) a pound, and new milk with the cream on it at five cents (2½d.) a quart. If the milk is allowed to stand awhile there is a splendid head of cream on it."

We had further conversation about future prospects, the causes of failure with some who had emigrated to Canada and not succeeded, the openings for Christian work, and many other subjects, on which I received intelligent and valuable information.

Toronto furnished another very satisfactory case in a lad who until recently was a member of the shoeblack brigade in connection with Westminster Chapel, a case in which the Rev. Henry Simon had taken special interest. On arriving in Canada the lad found employment at a saw-mill, but he soon came to the conclusion that he

ought to be doing better in the way of wages. To use his own words, "I began to open my eyes. It didn't pay me to stay there for four dollars (16s.) a month and board, so I left to go to a farm for ten dollars (40s.) a month and board. After working there a month, I heard of a place about eighty-five miles away where they wanted some labourers, so I took the train down. The next morning I started work, and now I am getting eighteen cents and a half an hour, making nine hours a day and five on Saturday. My money comes to nine dollars and a quarter (37s.) a week, and I board and lodge for three and a quarter (13s.)" There is no difficulty in lads of this stamp getting constant work in Canada.

The next morning was spent in visiting several factories, and noting the various industries of Toronto. Soon after noon we were again "on board" the train and on the way to Hamilton, about forty miles further west.

Arrived at Hamilton, the first thing was to put myself in communication with Mr. John Smith, the Government Immigration Agent. Mr. Smith is an ingrained hater of all shams and humbugs, and I soon found myself the subject of a little incisive cross-examination.

"Who are the men who are working the 'Self-Help Emigration Society'?"

I mentioned the names of the Earl of Roden, Lord Dorchester, Sir Reginald

Proctor Beauchamp, Rev. Andrew Moarns, and others, and was then asked:—

"Do any of the committee receive any remuneration for their services?"

"Not a penny piece; every service is gratuitously rendered."

"What becomes of any concession or commission?"

"Every penny goes to the general fund for helping emigrants."

"Are your expenses paid for coming out here?"

"I have the privilege of paying my own expenses. The fact is—I wanted a holiday, and I thought I could not do better than take a run to Canada, and pick up information on the way in relation to emigrants."

"Do you expect to be reimbursed any expenditure?"

"Certainly not. I am taking this trip for my own pleasure, and quite independent of any connection with the Society."

"Pardon me for putting these plain questions. The fact is, I have seen so much of *professional philanthropy* that I like to know with whom I am dealing. I will gladly render you any help in my power."

I was amply rewarded for this interviewing by Mr. Smith's subsequent testimony—viz: "The Self-Help Society is the best I have had to do with. I see the men connected with it have no private ends to serve, but are devoting themselves to promoting the real welfare of the men they send out.

It is a thoroughly honest, unselfish Society, and it will give me the greatest pleasure to aid it in every possible way."

I must avoid mentioning other societies and individuals to which Mr. Smith referred, but of one prominent individual he said, with considerable warmth: "The man is an utter humbug. He gets two shillings for every emigrant, and in one instance, at least, he received ten pounds each for several discharged prisoners, and nearly every penny went into his own pocket."

While we were talking a young girl came in to make some inquiries respecting a railway transportation ticket.

"Well, Kitty, how old are you?"

"I don't know; I think I am sixteen."

"When do you want the ticket?"

"To-morrow."

"All right, Kitty. I will see that you have it."

As soon as she was gone, Mr. Smith said, "That is one of Miss Rye's girls. She came out here as poor as any of them, and now she has investments of her own amounting to at least fifty, and possibly a hundred pounds."

I made inquiries about some men sent out by the Self-Help Society.

"How is a man named S— doing?"

"He came out in May last year. He is now working at a place about twenty-seven miles from here, and is earning three dollars (12s.) a day. His mate, who came out with

him, is earning two dollars, seventy-five cents (11s.) a day. They were both ordinary labourers, and are now working in a stone quarry."

Of another man, Mr. Smith said: "He came out as poor as a rat, he is now doing splendidly, and has just bought two houses. He lives in one and lets the other."

"I find so many men succeed here in Canada; what about those who fail?"

With much quiet emphasis, Mr. Smith said: "I have been here thirty-four years, and have never known of an honest man, or his children, begging bread."

I inquired about a man and his wife who had done well at the peat work provided in Lincolnshire. The two arrived in June last.

"Well, the man's donkey. I got him work at which he might have had fifteen dollars (£3) a month and board, and his wife might have had nine dollars (36s.) a month and board in another situation, but they didn't like the idea of being separated. People who come out here must be prepared to make some sacrifices, and to rough it for a time."

It was gratifying to hear Mr. Smith speak highly of the integrity and thorough principle of this man and his wife, and before we left I had the pleasure of seeing both of them and of arranging for an improvement in their position.

"What are the elements of success in men who come out here?" I inquired.

"They may be summed up in three words: honesty, sobriety, and industry."

"Is drink a frequent cause of failure?"

"Yes; a man can get drunk here much cheaper than in England. Beer will cost him more, but whisky can be bought here, 34 u.p., at from four to five shillings a gallon. If immigrants will only keep sober, and are honest and industrious, they are bound to succeed. I have about seven thousand pass through my hands every year. I could tell you of scores who came here with scarcely a cent in their pockets, who are now worth thousands of pounds."

We left Hamilton by an evening train for Niagara Falls, forty miles east. On arrival we were soon "fixed" as to hotel accommodation, and in conversation with the landlord.

"Do you call this a village?"

"Oh, no! this is a town. It was formerly called Clifton, but is now Niagara Falls, Ontario, to distinguish it from 'Niagara Falls' on the American side."

"What constitutes a town?"

"Two thousand inhabitants."

"What is the population of this town?"

"Over three thousand."

"What constitutes a city?"

"A population of ten thousand."

We continued in conversation for about half-an-hour on a variety of topics, then took a two-mile walk, arranged to be called at 6:30 the following morning, and went to bed to

dream of the anticipated delights of Niagara. At 7.30 the following morning a carriage and pair was in waiting, and off we started, first to "The Rapids," where Captain Webb lost his life. By means of an inclined railway we were soon nearly on a level with the seething current. The rocks on either side, of red sandstone and white limestone, 240 feet high, presented a picture of majestic grandeur. The water, estimated to be about 250 feet deep at this point, rushed past us in its onward course to Lake Ontario, thence to the St. Lawrence and the Atlantic ocean. The scene in the early morning was of great beauty, and we would willingly have made a long stay, but were obliged to hurry forward.

Our youthful guide quietly remarked, "I have no regular wages here; I only get what I can pick up from visitors." I took the hint and handed him "a quarter," and having paid our fifty cents each for admission, and inspected the curiosities of the bazaar, we proceeded to "The Whirlpool." Here another payment of fifty cents each was required, another ride on an inclined railway enjoyed, another hint received from a guide, "I have no regular wages here," &c., &c.; and here we had a further contribution to our enjoyment from the scenery around us.

As our young guide talked like a halfpenny book, I ventured a few questions:—

"Now, do you mind telling me, in confidence, how much money you make by showing people the whirlpool."

"Well, you see, the season is only a short one—about three months in the year, and there are several of us."

"How many visitors do you get here?"

"In the season, from 300 to 500 a day."

"I suppose you make a good thing out of it. Now, just tell me. I will promise not to try to get your berth, and besides, I couldn't talk as you do. How much do you get?"

"About 180 dollars (£36) in the season. Sometimes it's more."

Not a bad thing, I thought, for a small boy with "no regular wages."

A couple of minutes' walk brought us to a charming spot named "The Swiss Glen," in which we indulged in the delights of an imaginary picnic. As the shale and fallen rock made progress somewhat difficult at places, we asked our guide if many accidents occurred.

"There hasn't been an accident here for fourteen years. When Captain Webb lost his life there were thousands of people here, but not a single accident."

We re-entered an open carriage on the inclined railway and, with our faces to the charming scenery which we had just visited, were soon on the higher level. On payment of another half-dollar each for admission, asked for when we went out, and another "quarter" to our guide, we were free to proceed on our drive.

We were soon in view of the new suspension bridge which unites the mainland on the American and Canadian side of Niagara.

The cost of this bridge amounted to nearly £240,000. The span is 1,230 feet from tower to tower, the towers on the Canadian side are 120 feet high, the depth from the floor of the bridge to the water below is 256 feet. A little further on we saw the *Maid of the Mist*, the little steamer which, to escape seizure by the sheriff, was guided by the pilot Robinson, through the whirlpool, to the American side.

"Do you know what that boat is made of?" our driver inquired, after giving us a graphic description of the perilous voyage referred to.

"Iron, I suppose."

"No."

"What then; oak?"

"No."

We made several other guesses, and at length gave it up. Mr. Driver then informed us, "She is *Maid of the Mist*."

We tried to look serious, and asked, "Is that the way you treat innocent tourists?"

"Well, sir, we like to follow Scripture; when we see a stranger, we try to take him in—and we succeed sometimes!"

As we approached the Falls, we were frequently solicited by photographers to have our likenesses taken, with either or both of the Falls as a background. The specimens shown were however quite sufficient to lead us to decline every invitation.

We ascended to the balcony at the top of Table Rock House, and from that elevated

position looked down upon the grandest sight we had ever witnessed. Immediately in front of us was the American Fall, 900 feet in width, with a drop of 164 feet. A little to the right was the Canadian Fall, 1,900 feet across, with a drop of 158 feet. Our guide informed us that it was estimated that 1,500,000,000 cubic feet of water passes over this Fall every hour!

It was a grand and awe-inspiring scene. No words can describe it. That sight alone was more than worth our journey of 4,000 miles. The majestic roar of the rushing waters and the sublime grandeur of the picture filled us with silent awe. We stood spellbound, our hearts filled with reverence and our minds with wonder, as we looked upon that magnificent "apocalypse of God."

After viewing the Falls from above, we were desirous of going under the Horseshoe Fall. The signification of our wish was sufficient. We entered our several robing rooms, and when we emerged our nearest relatives would have failed to recognise us. Our aching sides testified to the strength of the laughter-fit which took possession of us as we looked at each other. Goloshes encased our feet, yellow oilskin leggings covered our lower limbs, coats of the same material protected our bodies, a towel served for a necktie, and the suit was completed by a friar's hood, which left only the wearer's face visible. Verily, in our experiences there was but a step from the sublime to the

ridiculous. "Would you like to have your likeness taken?" from another photographer was the final straw. We laughed till the tears rolled down our cheeks, and we had to hold on to a handrail for support. However, we managed to cross the road and to descend the staircase which led to the lower level beneath the Fall. We soon found that we had to face what would have proved a drenching spray if it had not been for our oilskins. The wet, slippery pathway warned us to walk circumspectly. In a few minutes we stood immediately under the water which was being dashed from the overhanging rock above. The roar was so great that we could not hear the shouting of our guide. Signs had to take the place of words.

Returning to the house, we disrobed—so far as our additional garments were concerned—paid our costumer and guide, made sundry purchases, and then directed our driver to cross over to the American side. With frequent alternations of driving and walking we visited Goat Island, Luna Island (from which we had a magnificent view both of the American Fall and the Horseshoe Fall), and finally Three Sisters Islands.

Fresh beauties presented themselves at every turn. The "Three Islands" are connected by bridges which span the foaming waters. Several notices, "Do not venture in dangerous places," warned visitors

that although the surroundings were most delightful, the way was not always safe.

After five hours' delightful enjoyment of Niagara, we returned to our hotel, had an early lunch, and then started by the Grand Trunk Railway for London, 120 miles further west. This statement is not quite correct, as the train was more than an hour behind in starting, and one of the officials declared most emphatically that although he had been there for nine or ten years he had never known a train to start at the advertised time. In due time (or undue time) we reached London, a city of about 35,000 inhabitants. London! the very name was suggestive of home. It was interesting and amusing to note how "the powers that be" in London, Ontario, had endeavoured to make their city a miniature of the metropolis of England. London, Ontario, has its river Thames (100 yards wide), its Blackfriars-bridge, Westminster-bridge, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's, Pall-mall, Piccadilly, Covent-garden, Victoria-park, Cheapside, Crystal Palace, and also its East-end and West-end.

I wanted to get information respecting emigrants from London, England, and so, early in the morning following arrival, waited on Mr. A. G. Smyth, the Government agent, who most generously laid himself out to further my wishes. His first statement was most gratifying.

"I don't know one of your men who is not

doing well. I have received and placed a good many this year and they have all turned out well."

"I should like to see some of the men; would it be possible to arrange it?"

"It would take a good bit of time, as they are somewhat scattered. I could, however, give you particulars about most of them."

Then followed details about more of the Lincolnshiremen and others who had experienced sharp struggles in the old country. Most of those mentioned are engaged on farms from nine to thirteen miles from London, Ontario. Special mention was made of one family which had caused rather more perplexity than usual on account of illness and other matters. "But," added Mr. Smyth, "they are all right now; the man, although totally unaccustomed to farm work previously, is well placed. I spent the greater part of three days in getting him fixed. He has now house and firing for himself and family, board for himself, and eighteen dollars (£3 12s.) a month in addition. If he prefers it he may have a dollar (4s.) a day and a house."

"What does it cost for house-rent in the neighbourhood of London?"

"Nice little houses may be had here for five dollars (£1) a month, and in the country for two and a-half to three dollars (10s. to 12s.) a month."

Our next visit was to Watford, a village about thirty miles further west, where we

were delighted to make the acquaintance of the Rev. R. Hay, who has most generously devoted himself to promoting the interests of a large number of immigrants. By his kindly influence thirty have been well placed during the last few months, and it was exceedingly gratifying to hear that all had turned out well. Mr. Hay had made arrangements for a number of the immigrants to meet me on the following evening so that I might receive their own testimony about their new homes and surroundings, and he further volunteered to drive us round a good part of the country to see some of the farms. This offer was, of course, gladly accepted, and at 10 o'clock on the following morning we were on the road.

At a farmhouse, about seven miles from Watford, we had a delightful experience of Canadian hospitality. Although we were unexpected visitors, we received a right hearty welcome, and throughout the day were treated most royally.

The Goodman of the house was not at home, but the "goodwife" became at once "guide, counsellor and friend," and showed us over a good part of the farm of over two hundred acres, and also enlightened us as to the requirements and appliances of Canadian farming. The numerous outhouses, well kept and furnished, were evidences of prosperity, especially when we learned that the whole property was free. With the excep-

tion of two or three farms in the neighbourhood every occupier is his own landlord. At the dinner-table we met Mrs. C—, one of the numerous cases which had come before the committee of the "Self-Help" Society, owing to the failure of the jute works at Barking. She was treated in every way as on an equality with the family. In the old country she had experienced severe trials. Owing to the prolonged illness and death of her husband she had had to do the bread-winning. The closing of the factory threw her and hundreds besides out of employment. The Rev. T. Davies proved a friend in need, and arrangements were made for the widow and her daughter to emigrate.

"Mrs. C—, would you like to go back?"

"Oh, dear, no! I am too comfortable here to want to go back."

"How is your daughter?"

"She is very well, and is living on a farm very near me. If you see Mr. Davies, will you tell him how happy we are here, and thank him for all the interest he took in us?"

It will be understood with what pleasure we ate the delicious farmhouse bread made by Mrs. C— after this testimony. Looking round the table we found that England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland were each represented. The representative of the last, although of Irish descent, was Canadian born. It was amusing to hear him remark with true Hibernian humour, "I'm shure no one

would know I'm Oirish by the way. I spake."

In the evening we met eighteen or twenty of the emigrants sent to Watford. Only one expressed dissatisfaction with his lot. Everything was wrong with him, although others who were there said he had a good situation, and that altogether he was not a bad sort of fellow. I could only suppose that he was the subject of a fit of hypochondria, and for the time dubbed him Mr. Grumbler. When appealed to, not one of the others could be found to endorse his testimony. I subsequently ascertained that Mr. Grumbler had saved a considerable sum of money, although he had been little more than a year in Canada.

Turning to another man, whose happy face would be a passport to good society anywhere, I asked, "Do you regret coming out?"

"Not a bit of it. I engaged for twenty-seven dollars (£5 8s.) a-month for the season, and I have no doubt about getting something else."

Just before, I had had a chat with a farmer in the neighbourhood, who was formerly connected with Parish-street Chapel, Horselydown, and, referring to this young man, he said: "He has gained for himself a very good name since he came here. I am commissioned to offer him what I think will be a good opening for him."

Mr. L— wants a confidential man and he believes Mr. O— here will suit him. He will have 240 dollars (£48) a-year, a house to live in, free pasturage, feed for a cow if he likes to keep one, as much garden ground as he wants, all the apples he can eat, and may keep any number of hens, his employer supplying an equal number, and the two sharing the proceeds of the eggs."

Well done, Mr. O—! "A good name is better than great riches."

Speaking to the father and mother of this young man later in the evening, I found they heartily endorsed the testimony of their son as to Canadian experience, although they had only landed at Montreal about four months before.

"We have here," said the mother, "what we hadn't at home—plenty to eat and drink."

To another man I said, "You are looking well—much better than when I saw you in England."

"Yes; I guess this is a pretty good country for being well."

Another particularly commissioned me to let his friends know how well he was doing, and there were special reasons for this testimony being given by one who had seen him. I had previously received his employer's account of him, to the effect that he was thoroughly satisfied. There is no reason why he should not be in possession of a farm of his own in a few years' time.

Another very steady and intelligent man said, "I am better off by far than I was in the old country. I was in London two years, and during that time I was only able to get eight months' work."

Another, on being asked, "Would you like to go back to the old country?" replied, "I would rather go to the North Pole."

I recognised a man who came out about a month ago, and inquired what progress he had made. He replied, "The wages for the first month were very poor, but I had to prove what I was worth. I only got seven dollars (28s.) for the month with board and lodging; but I have just engaged for a hundred dollars a year and everything found, except clothes."

So the men went on, one after the other, testifying to the change for the better in their removal to Canada. Watford certainly has one great advantage in that it is thirty miles from any place where intoxicating liquors can be obtained. The men, too, are made to feel the influence of family life in the way they mix with their employers and their children. How vastly better than the lodging-houses of London, which thousands of working-men are obliged to make their homes!

I found that, as a general rule, farmers gave their "helps" a hundred dollars the first year, in addition to board, lodging, and

in most cases washing and mending, and the second year the wages were advanced to 130 or 150 dollars, according to the progress made. Families, too, could procure firing at a very cheap rate; a cord of wood—that is, a pile 8ft. long, 4ft. high and 4ft. wide, or 128 cubic feet—being purchasable for a dollar and a half—six shillings sterling.

We closed a most enjoyable time by singing one of the old familiar hymns, and commending one another to our Father in heaven. Mr. Hay kindly drove us back to our hotel, and we at length separated, with a deep conviction on our part of the true spirit of consecrated devotion which marks Mr. Hay's work, not only in relation to the spiritual interests of those amongst whom he labours, but also to their material welfare.

We had a new experience at Watford. On our arrival at the station we requested to be driven to the best hotel. The catering generally was satisfactory, but we were scarcely prepared for the experience of the morning. Our boots were placed outside our bedrooms, as usual, when we retired to rest, and there they were in the same condition when we rose in the morning. Thinking they had been inadvertently overlooked, we spoke to a domestic, and were by her referred to the landlord, as such a matter was altogether beyond her province. As the landlord was not to be found, I men-

tioned the circumstances to another visitor at the breakfast table, and asked, "How do they usually manage about boot-cleaning here?"

"I guess every man cleans his own," was the response.

"But how do ladies manage?"

"I don't know; they have never favoured me with their experience."

As we were unprovided with a shoeblack's stock-in-trade, I made further attempts to get the usual hotel polish, but they were all in vain. In Watford every man is his own shoeblack.

We certainly had no reason to complain of the hotel charges. For clean, well-furnished bedrooms and three good meals and attendances we were only called upon to pay at the rate of a dollar (1s.) a day. Although this was an exceptional experience, we found hotel charges throughout Canada to be exceedingly reasonable. In no case did they exceed three and a-half dollars (1s.) a day. The average did not amount to more than 12s. There are no "tips" to servants, the only "extra" being a trifle, usually "a quarter" (1s.), for the conveyance of luggage to or from the railway.

Just as we were leaving Watford, an easy-going farmer accosted me.

"Are you the gentleman that's looking after immigrants here?"

"I have seen a few since I have been here, and I am delighted to find that they are so well fixed."

"I wish you would send me a good servant, I am prepared to pay a good commission."

I assured him that "commission" did not in any way enter into my calculations, and then asked, "What wages are you prepared to give?"

"Year in and year out a dollar and a half (6s.) a week, and if a girl doesn't understand the work at first my wife will very soon teach her. We don't mind any trouble in that respect."

I took down the name and address of my inquirer, and promised to do my best to further his wishes when I returned to England, and in a short time we were again "on board" the train, bound for Kingston, 307 miles further east.

The ride from Watford to Kingston, a town (not yet incorporated into a city) of about 15,000 inhabitants, was a very fatiguing one. We left Watford at one o'clock p.m., and did not reach Kingston till 3.20 the following morning, when we at once made for the British American Hotel, and before four o'clock were far away in the land of dreams. At Kingston we had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of the Rev. Dr. Jackson, who very kindly assisted us to find some of the immigrants who had

settled in the town, and in other ways rendered us valuable help.

The first family visited had met with unexpected difficulties, owing to the illness of the head of the family, and especially to an accident which he had met with whilst engaged at his work. The wife, however, had proved a good help-meet, and I learned afterwards that she was such an excellent worker that she need never be a day without employment, and could easily earn six dollars (24s.) a week. As the husband was earning a dollar and a quarter (5s.) a day, there was an income, fairly safe, of fifty-four shillings a week.

It was interesting to notice how much the Sunday-school cards received by the children in the old country were prized. They occupied the most conspicuous position on the wall of the room, and formed a "run and read" library of a very extensive character.

Another immigrant we visited—one of the cases in which the Rev. J. Davies, of Barking, had taken great interest—afforded us very much pleasure. She was evidently in a very comfortable home, where she received the utmost kindness and consideration. The hearty manner in which the girl referred to her employer and those connected with her spoke volumes as to the kindly relationship of the two parties. The generous tribute which we received as to

the girl's faithful service was equally gratifying. Such a home, with seven dollars (28s.) a month and everything found, is one to be valued. Here, again, I was specially charged with a message of gratitude to Mr. Davies for the efforts he had made to relieve the distress in Barking, occasioned by the stoppage of the jute works and other industries.

Dr. Jackson kindly escorted us to the residence of Mr. Macpherson, the Government Immigration Agent, but that gentleman, and also other friends to whom we had letters of introduction, proved to be away from home, and thus we failed to procure detailed information about several individuals and families whose names we had jotted down before leaving England. Our day of rest was, however, most welcome. We had the pleasure of worshipping in the Congregational church, and of hearing two excellent sermons from Dr. Jackson.

For the next day we had the choice of 175 miles by rail to Montreal or a longer distance by water, occupying fourteen or fifteen hours, by way of the Thousand Islands and several rapids. We decided upon the latter, and then had to choose between getting up in the morning in time for the departure of the boat at four o'clock or securing sleeping accommodation on board. The latter course seemed preferable, as there was no danger of losing our trip by over-sleeping. The

charge for a stateroom was only a dollar, in addition to that for the trip—five dollars and a quarter (21s.). This included breakfast and dinner on board. It would be impossible by any description to do justice to the varied and delightful scenery which presented itself to us from the upper deck of the *Magnet*. Before leaving England a friend remarked, "On no account miss the Thousand Islands." The actual number of islands is nearly two thousand, varying in extent from a few feet to twenty-five or thirty acres. Nearly every island on the American side has one or more residences upon it—the summer homes of wealthy citizens. The proportion similarly occupied on the Canadian side is about one in twenty. Several are the property of various religious bodies, and during the season are the means of bringing together large numbers of their respective adherents.

As the islands showed themselves through the grey light of the early morning, there was a peculiar charm about them. Suddenly, some one near us exclaimed, "Oh, look! one of the islands is on fire. How rapidly it is spreading." The mistake lasted but a few moments. The sun had risen. Its glorious light capped one of the distant islands, and soon the horizon was flooded with such an effulgence of crimson and gold as to fill us with reverent wonderment. The sunrise enabled us better to follow

the winding course which we were frequently compelled to take. At times it seemed as if we were entirely shut in, and that our onward progress would cause us to strike against the banks, but as we approached a way was opened by some hitherto unseen channel, which introduced us to fresh and varied beauties.

"Shooting the rapids" was an experience we had specially longed for. The minor rapids were somewhat disappointing; but at Long Sault, a continuous rapid about nine miles in length, we had a somewhat exciting time. The water rushed along its narrow channel at the rate of twenty miles an hour, and we for the first time experienced the sensation of "sliding down hill on a steamboat." During the passage there were four men at the wheel and four others at a tiller attached to the rudder. This steering force is necessary to keep the vessel steady and her head straight with the course of the rapid, for if she presented her side to the current she would be immediately capsized. In such an event swimming belts would be of little use. It was cheering, however, to be told that at a neighbouring station there was a notice: "Post mortem examinations held weekly."

Of the seven or eight rapids we passed, "Long Sault" and "The Cedars" were the most delightful. As the darkness was setting in we did not attempt the Lachine

rapids, but landed at the village of Lachine and proceeded by rail to Montreal, which in due course we reached. Our fifteen hours on the river contributed not a little to our pleasant memories of Canada.

We had now returned to our starting-point on Canadian soil. Quietly seated in the Saint Lawrence Hall, the general impressions made on our minds during the run of about a thousand miles began to focus themselves. Three subjects were specially distinct, viz., *the temperance, the morality, and the industry of the Canadian people.*

After travelling from one end of Ontario to the other, mixing with all classes and conditions of men, seeing working men in their leisure hours, looking into hyphases and scanning public thoroughfares, we were glad to be able to testify that not a single case of drunkenness had come under our notice. Repeated inquiries of ministers and others elicited corroborative testimony, that the Canadians as a people are comparatively free from the evils of intemperance. Drunkards are to be found in Canada as well as in England, but such cases are almost invariably importations from other countries.

As to morality, what is known in England as the social evil seems to be almost unknown in Canada, at least so far as its public manifestation is concerned. I closely observed the condition of the principal

thoroughfares at night, especially in the larger towns—Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, London, and Kingston—but nowhere did I see the slightest sign of public immorality. On mentioning this fact to a minister who has been many years in the Dominion, he said, "You will find nothing of that sort in Canada. Our streets are as safe by night as they are by day so far as that evil is concerned."

The industry of the people was everywhere apparent. They are not afraid of work. In such an atmosphere the loafer has no chance. From very shame, if from no higher consideration, he is compelled to retire, or to enrol himself among the really industrial classes. Everywhere I was reminded of Mr. Wills's words, "Our law is work or want," and the fact that there was so little want proved the disposition of the people to work.

My principal object in visiting Canada was to ascertain as far as possible to what extent the emigrants sent out under the auspices of the Self-Help Emigration Society had been benefited by the change.

It is a significant fact that after the most careful inquiries I could only discover ten cases of failure. I am more than ever satisfied that in Canada there is a splendid field for the surplus labour power of England. The capitalist is not so much wanted as the

labourer. The labourer grows to be a capitalist.

The new Guide Book just published by the Department of Agriculture of the Dominion of Canada says: "An intending emigrant should have, above all things, good health, and be stout-hearted. A man who comes to work should be prepared to do anything at first that comes to his hand, and he should try to adapt himself to the ways of the new country in which he has placed his lot. . . . The condition of success in Canada is honest work, and none should come seeking to make a living who have not made up their minds to work. Canada is no place for the idle or the dissipated, and none of this class should think of coming."

Referring to the Province of Ontario, the same authority says: "Men commencing as labourers, without any capital, but strong arms and willing minds, seldom remain in that condition long, but after a period of greater or less duration they generally become employers of labour themselves. It is this moral certainty of rising in the social scale, when the proper means are employed, that brightens the hopes and stimulates the exertions of the poorest settler."

The last official return of the average rate of wages in the province of Ontario during 1886 is an interesting study. I have selected three places in the province as illustrations,

and for convenience quote English equivalents as to money value.

	Toronto.	Kingston.	Port Arthur.
Farm labourers, per week and board...	12/ to 14/	12/ to 16/	20/ to 24/
Female farm servants, per month and board	20/ „ 32/	20/ „ 32/	40/ „ 48/
Bricklayers, per day without board ...	8/ „ 12/	10/ „ 12/	8 „ 10/
Lumbermen, per month without board	48/ „ 72/	56/ „ 100/	72/ „ 120/
Smiths, per day without board ...	5/ „ 7/	6/ „ 7/	9/ „ 10/
Gardeners, per month with board	60/ „ 64/	48/ „ 64/	160/ „ 200/
Female cooks, per month with board	40/ „ 48/	32/ „ 40/	160/ „ 200/
Female domestics, per month with board	24/ „ 36/	24/ „ 36/	48/ „ 64/
General labourers, per day without board	4/ „ 5/	4/ „ 5/	6/ „ 7/
Saddlers, per day without board ...	5/ „ 7/	5/ „ 6/	9/ „ 10/
Tailors, per day without board ...	6 „ 8/	6/ „ 8/	10/ „ 14/

The population of the places named must be taken into consideration. That of Toronto is about 120,000; of Kingston about 15,000; of Port Arthur about 1,500. Port Arthur is situated on the shore of Thunder Bay, Lake Superior, in the midst of a rich mineral region. Although the population is at pre-

sent very small, the town bids fair to be one of the most populous in the province. The Canadian Pacific Railway runs through it, and it is the port to which the steamers of the company make tri-weekly trips from Owen Sound. The cost of living is much higher in Port Arthur than in Toronto or Kingston.

The retail prices of the ordinary provisions required by the working classes are equally interesting to intending emigrants, and those concerned for their welfare. I will take the official return for 1886 for Toronto, Hamilton, and Kingston.

	Toronto.	Hamilton.	Kingston.
Bacon, per lb.	/6 to /7	/4 to /5	/4½ to /5
Bread, best white, per 4 lb. loaf	— /6	— /5	— /6
Butter, per lb. (salt)	/9 „ /10	/7½ „ /8	/6 „ /7½
„ (fresh)	— 1/0	/10 „ /11½	/7½ „ /10
Beef „	— /6	/3 „ /6	/4 „ /5
Mutton „	— /7	/3½ „ /6	/3½ „ /5
Pork „	— /5	/4 „ /5	/4 „ /5
Cheese „	/7 „ /8	/7 „ /8	/5 „ /6
Coffee „	— 1/3	1/0 „ 1/7	— 1/0
Eggs, per dozen	/7½ „ 1/0	/7½ „ 1/0	/5 „ /7½
Milk, per quart	2½ „ 3½	/2½ „ /3	/2½ „ /3
Tea, black, per lb. ...	1/3 „ 3/0	2/0 „ 3/0	— 1/7

It should be borne in mind that the above prices are furnished by the several agents of the Dominion Government, entirely independent of one another. Each agent supplies information in relation to his own district.

The retail prices of some of the leading articles of clothing required by the working classes may also be of service. I will take the same places—Toronto, Hamilton, and Kingston, as illustrations:

	Toronto.	Hamilton	Kingston
Tweed Coats	16/ to 32/	16/ to 24/	16/ to 24/
" Overcoats ..	32/ " 60/	24/ " 40/	28/ " 36/
" Trousers ...	12/ " 20/	8/ " 16/	10/ " 12/
" Vests	6/ " 12/	0/ " 8/	6/ " 8/
Flannel Shirts	2/0 " 5/	5/ " 8/	3/ " 5/
Cotton Shirts	2/ " 4/	2/ " 4/	2/ " 3/
Flannel, per yard ..	7½ " 1/5	1/ " 1/7	1/ " 1/7
Cotton shirting, per yard	¼ " 7½	2½ " 5	5 " 7½
Men's Shoes	3/6 " 8/	4/ " 8/	4/ " 5/
Men's Boots	6/ " 16/	7/ " 9/	8/ " 10/
Women's Boots ...	4/ " 8/	5/ " 8/	4/ " 5/

It will be seen that there are greater variations in the prices quoted for clothing than for food. If the several agents were quoting for identically the same article and same quality of material, there would be little variation in the prices for the places named.

Immigrants frequently make a mistake in retaining their preference for materials of English manufacture. The charges for freight, duty, &c., in many cases increase the cost by 30 or 40 per cent. Clothing made from English materials must necessarily be much dearer than in the old country. The working classes would cer-

tainly do better by purchasing the products and manufactures of their adopted home.

I have endeavoured to furnish an outline of my trip to Canada, and of the information procured during my brief stay there. The voyage home was made under conditions which were upon the whole favorable. The s.s. *Lake Superior*, of 5,000 tons burthen, afforded capital accommodation. The captain, an able seaman and a courteous gentleman, did everything in his power to promote our comfort, but he could not control the winds nor regulate the waves. On the morning we left Montreal, I inquired as to the number of emigrants on board. With the exception of one family returning home on account of the death of its head, there were not a dozen steerage passengers.

"Emigrants," said the captain, "come out in hundreds, those who go back are as units in comparison."

"But what about the immigrants who have succeeded in Canada, surely they want to revisit the old country sometimes?"

"Yes; but they go back as cabin passengers, not as steerage."

I turned to one of the men in charge of some cattle, thinking that he was probably working his passage to England.

"Are you going to the Old Country, to stay there?" I inquired.

"Oh, no! I would return the next hour if I could. I have settled in Canada; my home

is in Montreal, and my wife and children are there. I shall be glad to get back to them. This is my third trip this year."

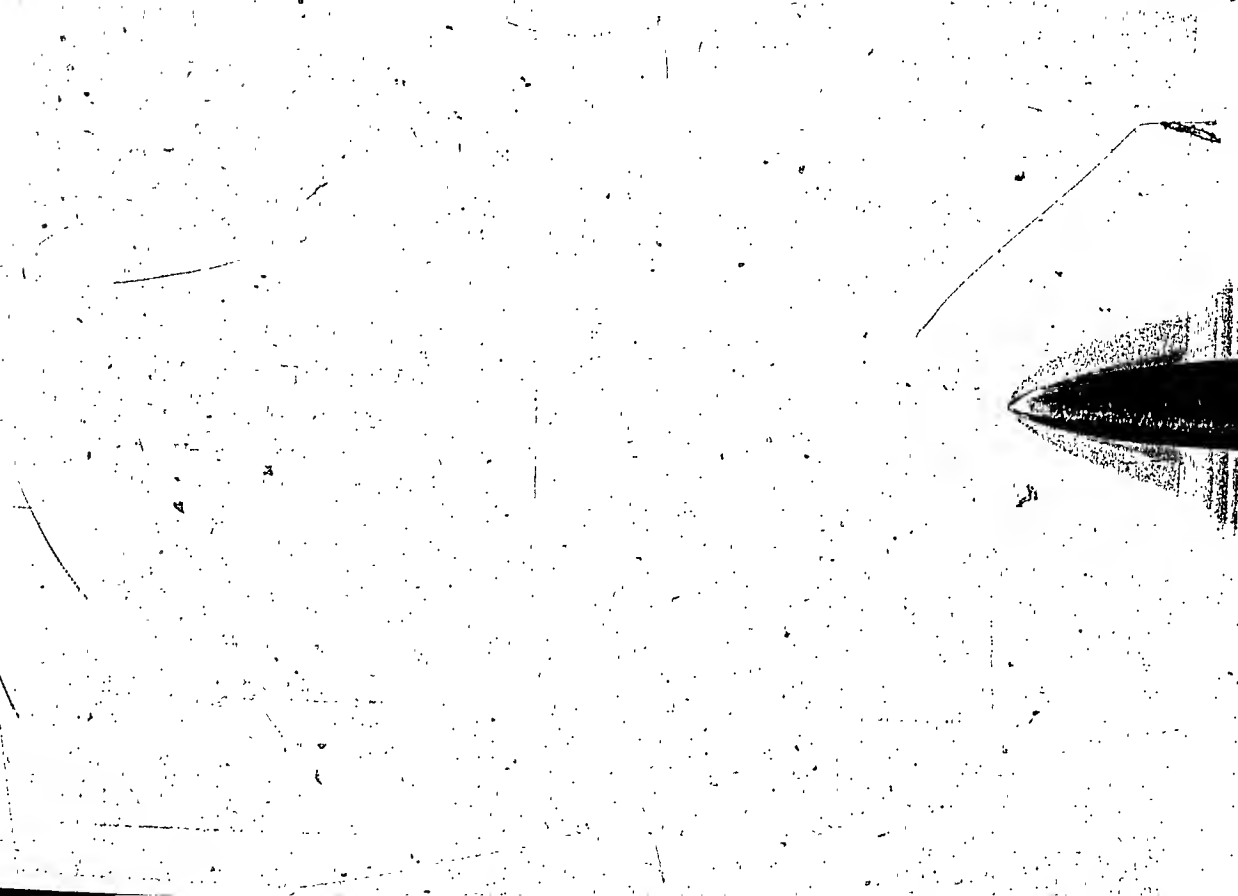
Our heart-songs blended, although we

were thinking of different localities, and we silently sang together, "There's no place like home," "for wife and children are there."

SEPTIMUS SCRIVENER.

[The required outlay for each emigrant is about £5. This includes passage-money, cost of kit, rail to destination in Canada, and a small reserve for contingencies. To provide for extending the beneficent work of the Self-Help Emigration Society, a fund of £5,000 ought to be raised

without much difficulty. Rev. Andrew Mearns, of the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, will gladly receive contributions, or they can be sent to the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. E. E. Barelay, of the banking firm of Barelay, Bevan, Tritton, and Co., Lombard-street, E.C.]



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